Fake IT Companies

†4926. SHRI JANESHWAR MISRA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there are more than 800 fake IT companies which are operating in the country at present;

(b) if so, whether government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the action being taken by Government to protect the investors?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) The Government has not received any complaint or information in this regard.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Self-sufficiency for semi-conductors in electronics industry

4927. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the existing annual demand of semiconductors used in electronics industry and the extent to which it is met by imports;

(b) the efforts made by government so far to develop and produce semiconductor devices and the result achieved stating whether self-sufficiency in this field has been achieved; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to remove the constraints, if any, in the development of such devices for commercial production in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (c) The existing annual demand of semiconductors used in electronics industry is estimated at about Rs. 2900 crores. About 90% of the demand is met by imports.

The Semiconductor area is characterized by a broad range of technologies, diversity of products, high entry costs and rapid obsolescence of technologies. Even developed countries like USA and Japan are not self-sufficient in this area. Government's role in this sector, thus, has been towards improving the environment for attracting investments covering delicensing of this sector,

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

reducing duties on input raw materials, piece-parts and zero duty on specified list of capital equipments for this sector.

The National Task Force on Information Technology and Software Development was set up vide Prime Minister's office Notification No. 360/31/C/10/989-ES. II dated 22.5.598 Government has approved 108 recommendations contained in the first report. The second report deals with the development, manufacture and export of IT hardware whereas the third report deals with long-term National IT policy. The area of microelectronics has been addressed in the third report of the Task Force. Microelectronics covers discrete semiconductor devices as well as semiconductor integrated circuits. The second and third reports of the Task Force are under consideration of the Government. In this context it may also be noted that the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Science and Technology, Environment and Forests in its 75th report presented to the Rajya Sabha on 24.4.2000 on the Demands for Grants (2000- 2001) of the Ministry of Information Technology has observed that "while software industry is doint well in the country, there is need to focus attention at hardware production and analyze reasons that tend to block its growth and take remedial steps. The Committee observes the hardware sector is showing reverse trends and as such as made little progress. the Committee, therefore recommends, the Ministry should endeavour to bridge the gap between two sectors by chalking out concrete plans for speedy promotion and development of hardware export in the country".

In addition to the measures relating to policy and fiscal aspects, Government also sponsors research and development and manpower development at academic institutions, R&D laboratories and industry on various aspects of semiconductors. Government has also initiated necessary steps to enact legislation for protection of Intellectual Property Rights of Layout-Design of Semiconductor Integrated Cricuits.

Central legislation on Agricultural Labourers

4928. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government initiated action for enactment of a Central legislation on agricultural labourers in 1993 as recommended by Dr. Ambedkar Birth Centenary Celebration Committee;